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THE UNCANNY
X-MEN
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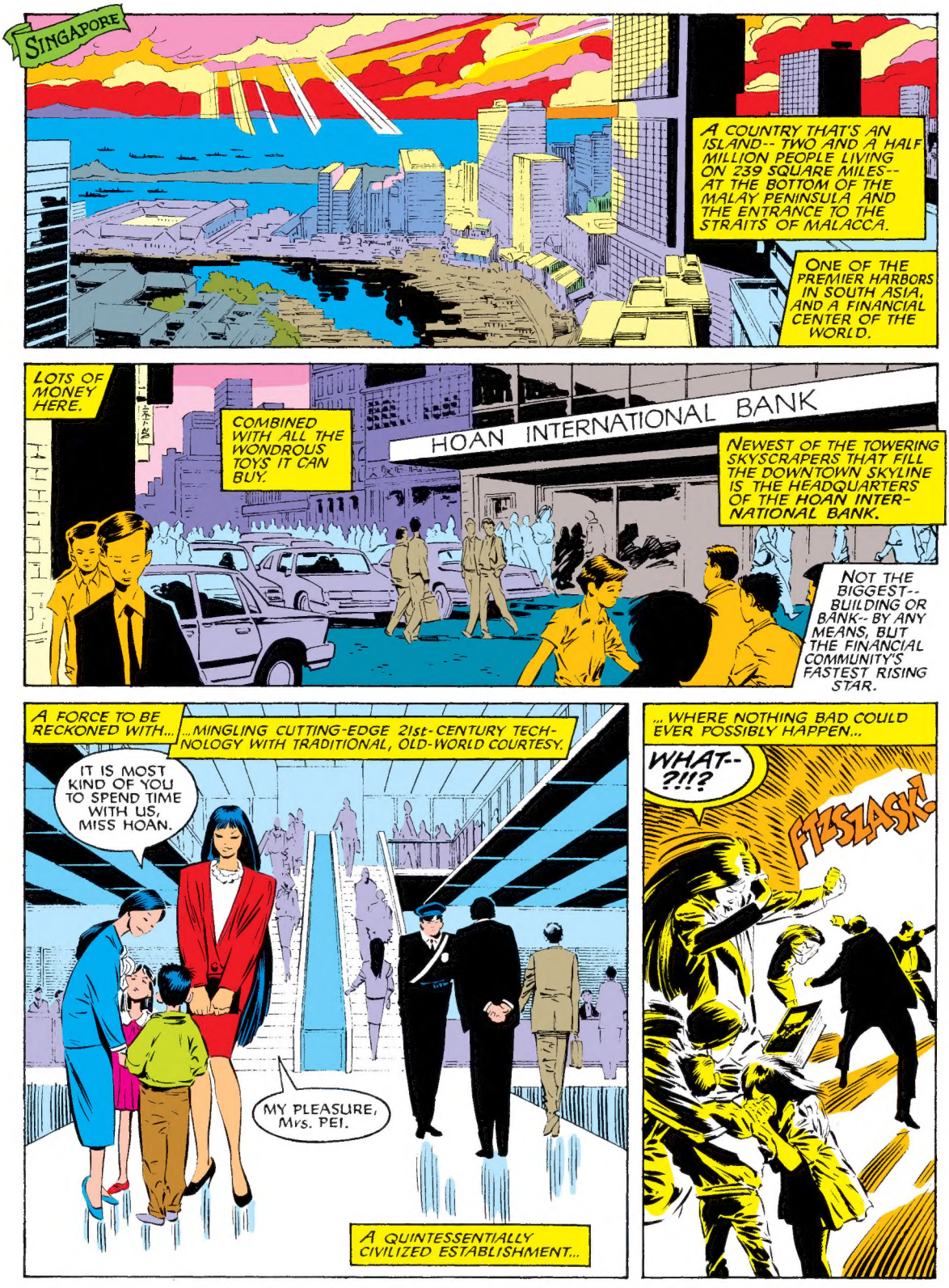
SINGAPORE
A COUNTRY THAT'S AN ISLAND-- TWO AND A HALF MILLION PEOPLE LIVING ON 239 SQUARE MILES-- AT THE BOTTOM OF THE MALAY PENINSULA AND THE ENTRANCE TO THE STRAITS OF MALACCA.
ONE OF THE PREMIER HARBORS IN SOUTH ASIA, AND A FINANCIAL CENTER OF THE WORLD.
LOTS OF MONEY HERE.
COMBINED WITH ALL THE WONDROUS TOYS IT CAN BUY.
HOAN INTERNATIONAL BANK
NEWEST OF THE TOWERING SKYSCRAPERS THAT FILL THE DOWNTOWN SKYLINE IS THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE HOAN INTERNATIONAL BANK.
NOT THE BIGGEST-- BUILDING OR BANK-- BY ANY MEANS, BUT THE FINANCIAL COMMUNITY'S FASTEST RISING STAR.
A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH...
...MINGLING CUTTING-EDGE 21st-CENTURY TECHNOLOGY WITH TRADITIONAL, OLD-WORLD COURTESY.
IT IS MOST KIND OF YOU TO SPEND TIME WITH US, MISS HOAN.
MY PLEASURE, Mrs. PEI.
A QUINTESSENTIALLY CIVILIZED ESTABLISHMENT...
...WHERE NOTHING BAD COULD EVER POSSIBLY HAPPEN...
WHAT--?!!?
FFSSZASK!

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STAN LEE PRESENTS

DOOMED

STARRING THE UNCANNY X-MEN

RAIDERS--

--AS MUCH MACHINES AS MEN!

Mrs. PEI--CHILDREN--GET DOWN!

BAM!

CHRIS CLAREMONT, WRITER
MARC SILVESTRI, PENCILER
DAN GREEN, INKER
GLYNIS OLIVER, COLORIST
TOM ORZECHOWSKI, LETTERER
ANN NOCENTI, EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO, EDITOR IN CHIEF

RATTA RATTA RATTA RATTA

BAM BLAM

KOOM!

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

BOOM! BLAM!

IN SECONDS, THE BANK'S LOBBY...

...IS TRANSFORMED INTO A SLAUGHTERHOUSE.

BULLETS FLY WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION, OR MERCY.

MEI LING--

--BLESSED BUDDHA, MY BABY--

--MEI LING!

FIGURE WE GOT THEIR ATTENTION, PRETTY BOY?

THOSE STILL BREATHING, FEARLESS LEADER, INDUBITABLY.

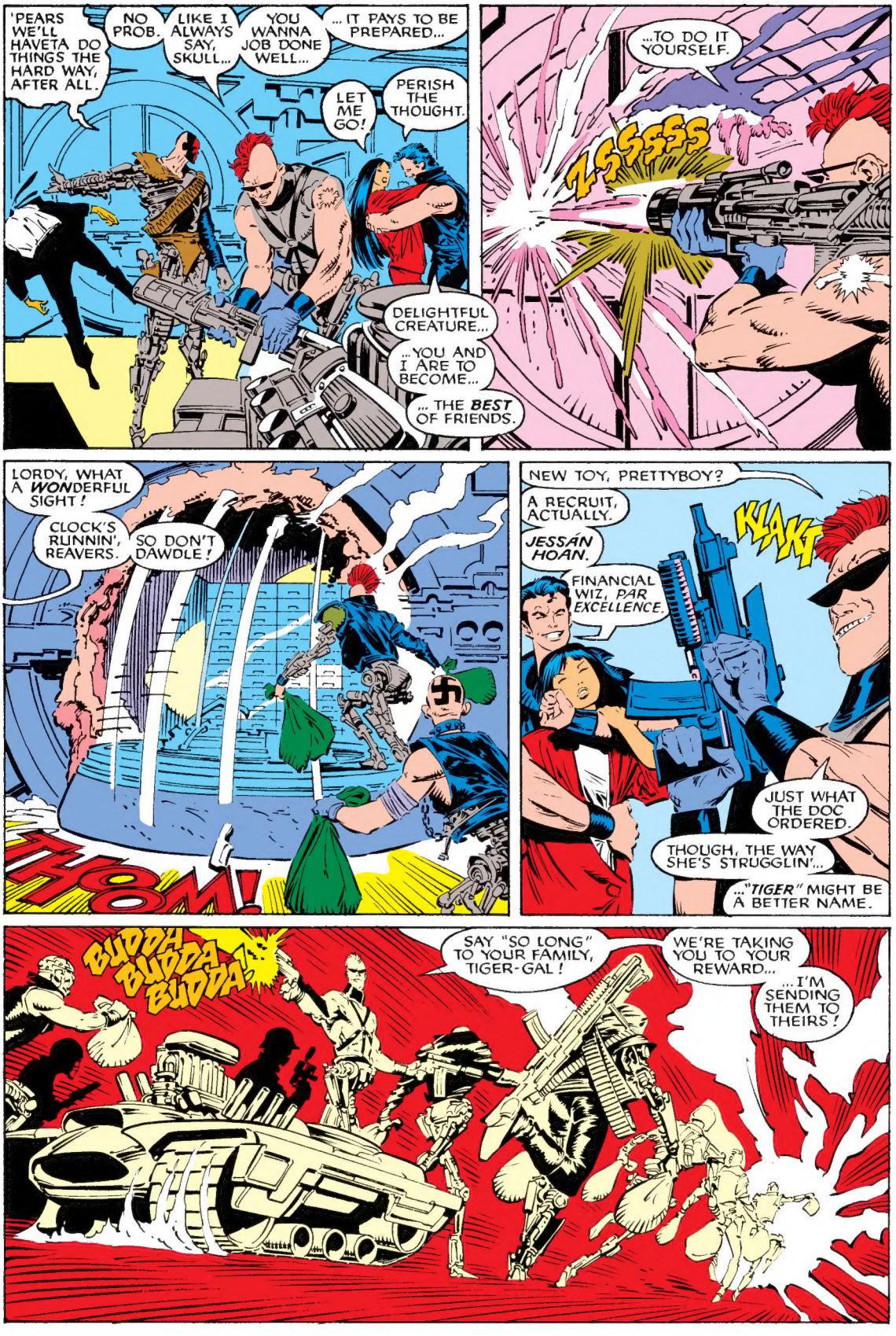
LORDY, I DO LOVE IT WHEN MY PLAN COMES TOGETHER.

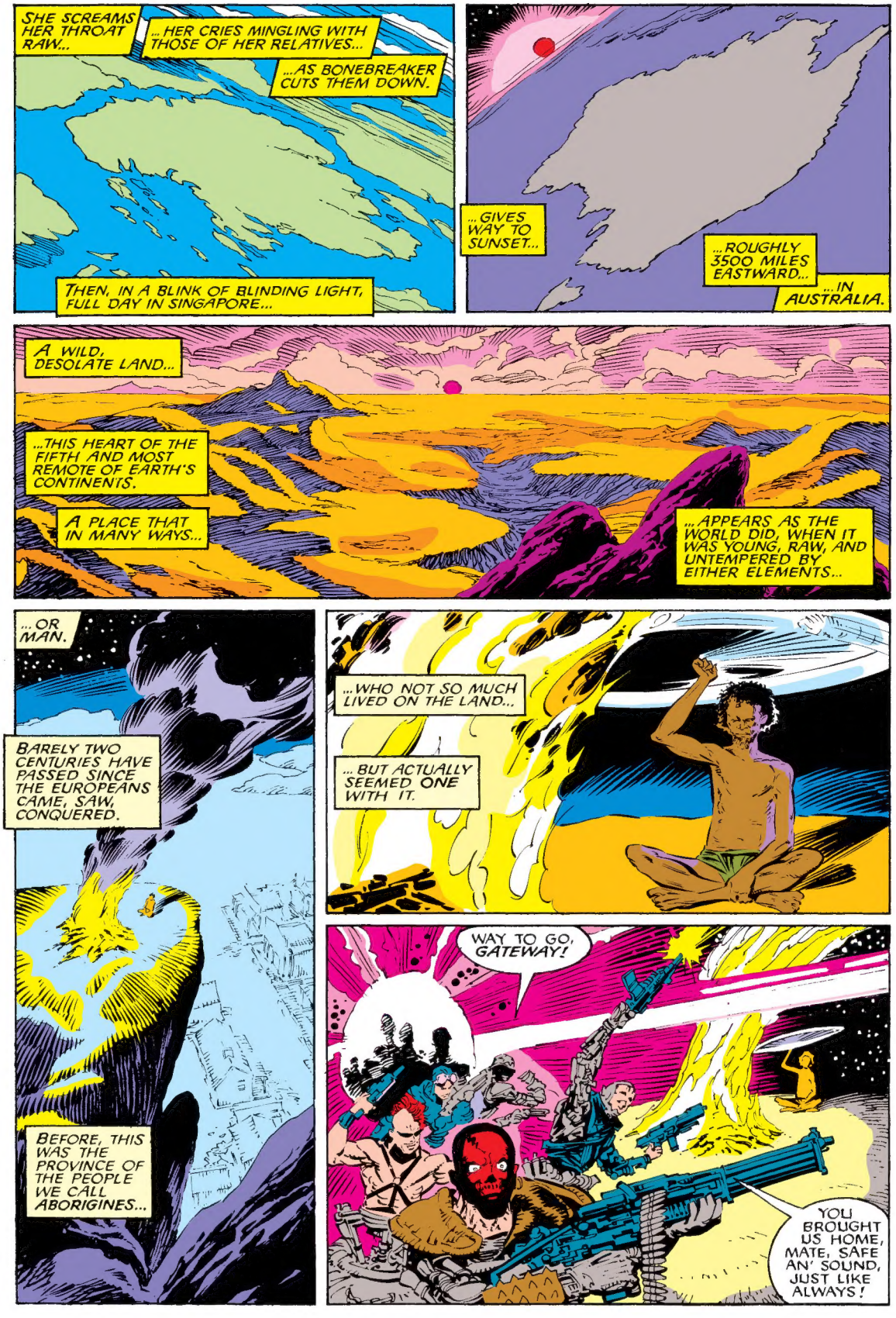
Y'ALL KNOW YOUR JOBS, REAVERS--

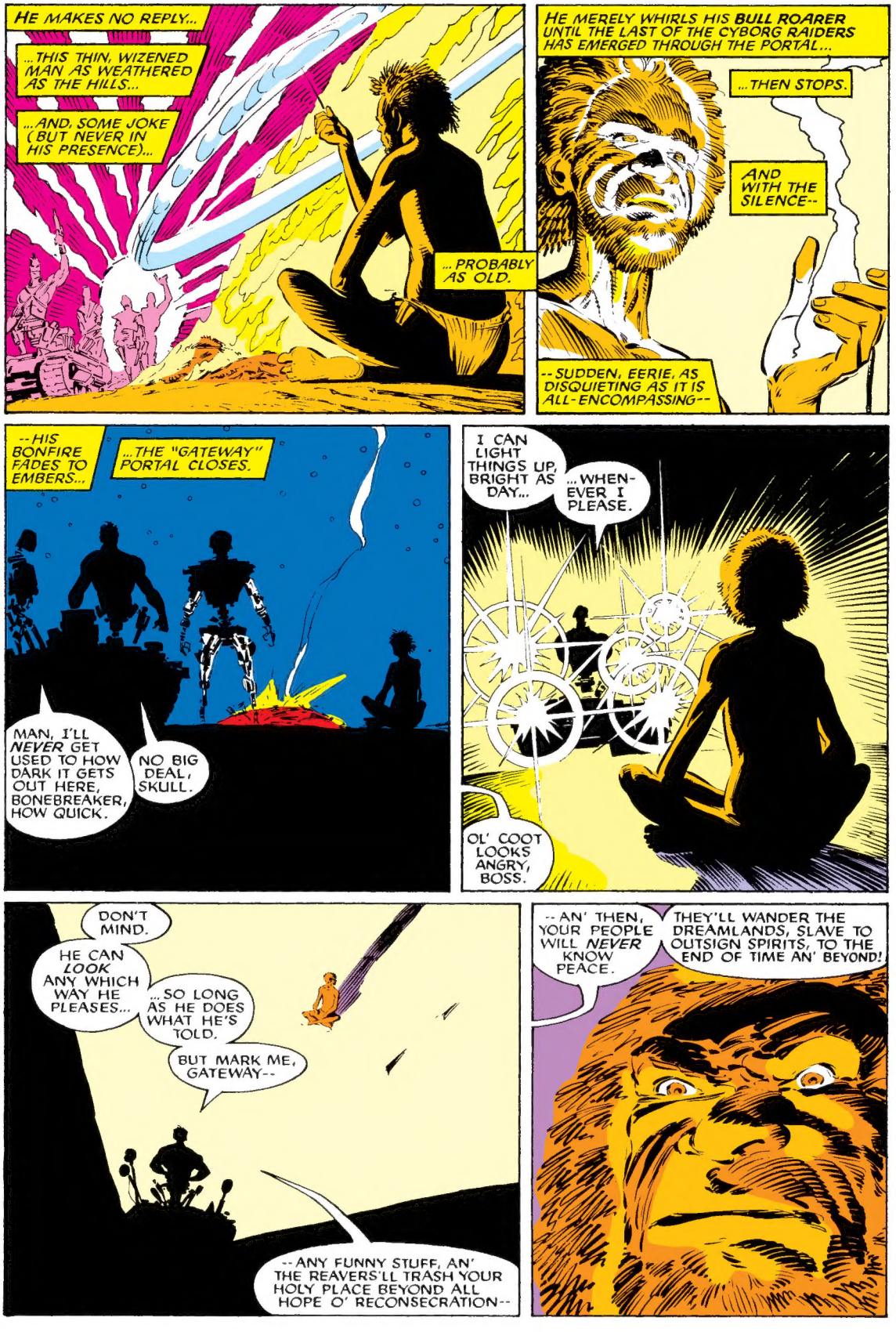
SNAP

--LET'S LOOT THE JOINT!

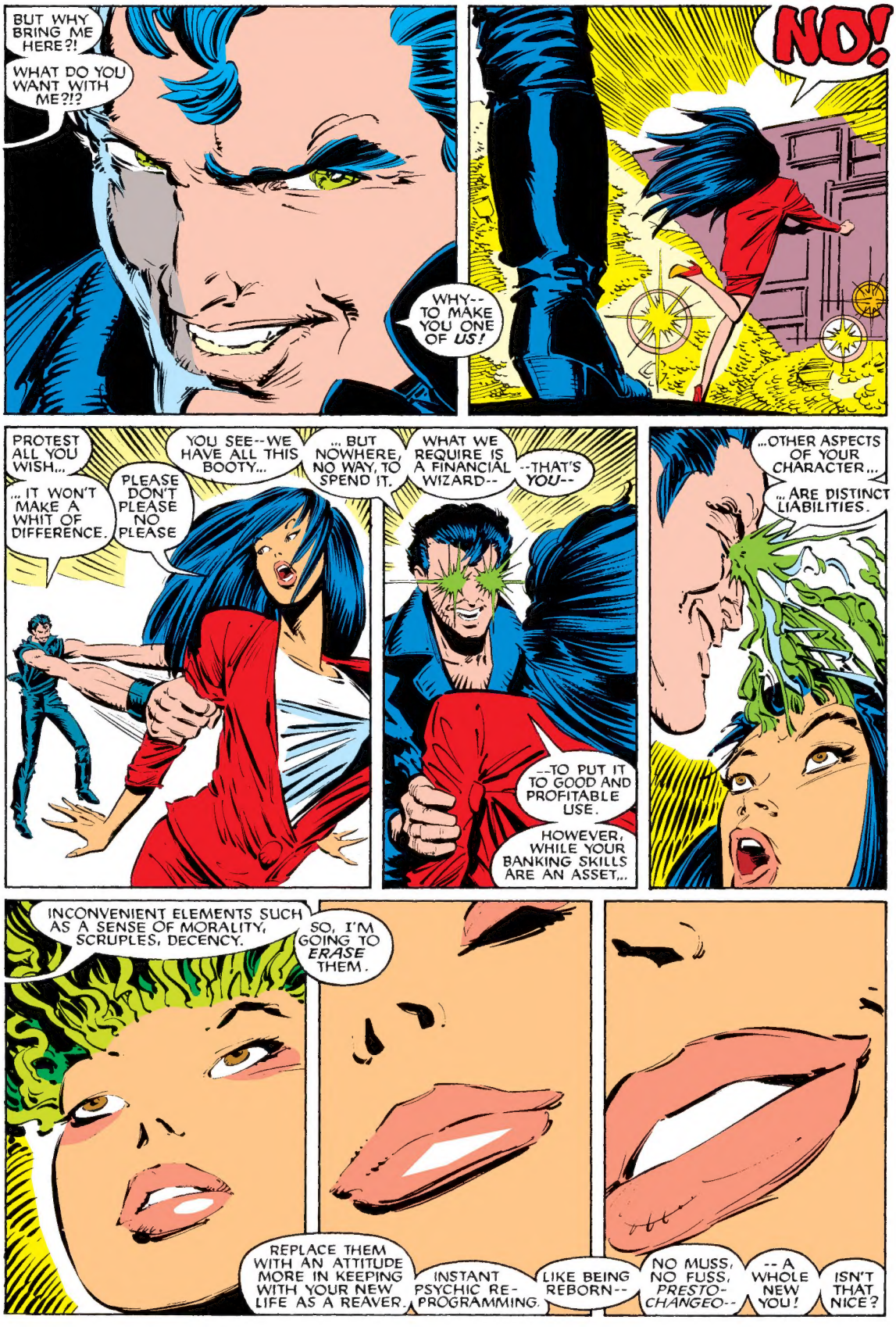
AND SO...
YO, PREZ--
--YOU GONNA BE A GOOD BOY...
...AN' OPEN YOUR MAIN VAULT...
... OR AM I GONNA BREAK YOUR NECK?
Gakgh-- AGHK-- glrghkk!
LOUDER, OLD MAN!
CAN'T UNDERSTAND A WORD YOU'RE SAYIN'!
STOP IT!
MY UNCLE CAN'T ANSWER-- CAN'T YOU SEE THAT--
--YOU'RE CHOKING HIM!
WHOA!
CHECK THIS OUT!
HEY, SKULLBUSTER-- BETTER WATCH YORE STEP, BRO'...
...THIS CHICA'S TOUGH!
I'M A REASONABLE MAN.
YOU WANNA SAVE THE OLD COOT, SWEETS...
...YOU PROVIDE THE COMBINATION.
THERE IS NONE.
WHEN YOU ATTACKED, THE SECURITY COMPUTERS AUTOMATICALLY SEALED THE VAULT. THE TIMELOCK CAN'T BE OPENED FOR 24 HOURS.
WE CAN'T WAIT.
THEN, IT APPEARS YOU BUTCHERS HAVE MADE ALL THIS EFFORT--CAUSED ALL THIS CARNAGE--FOR NOTHING!
NO FOOLIN' ???
GOLLYGOSHGEE-- I GUESS THEN WE DON'T NEED THE OLD GEEZER NO MORE.
KAK!
UNCLE!?!

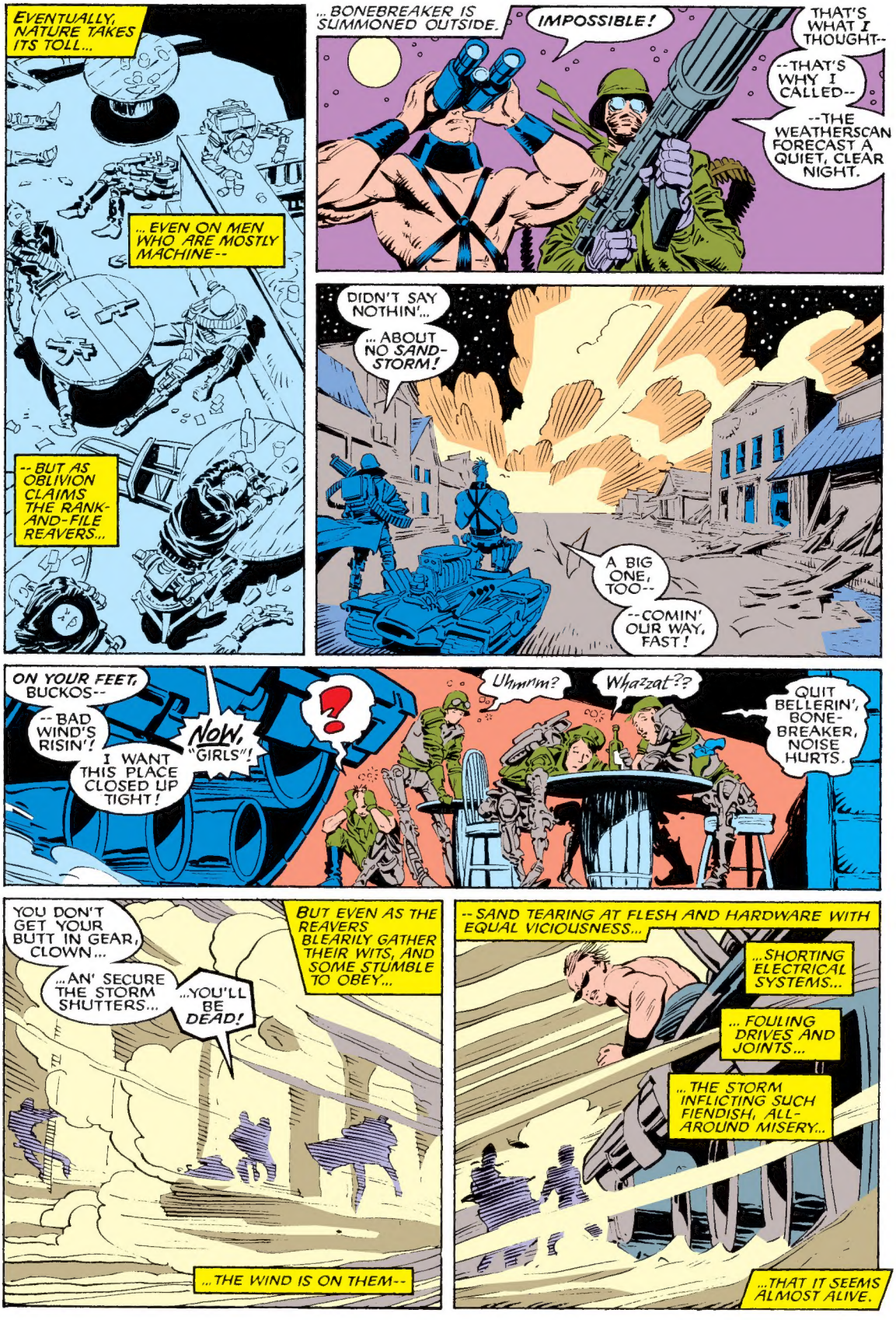

'PEARS WE'LL HAVETA DO THINGS THE HARD WAY, AFTER ALL.
NO PROB.
LIKE I ALWAYS SAY, SKULL...
YOU WANNA JOB DONE WELL...
... IT PAYS TO BE PREPARED...
LET ME GO!
PERISH THE THOUGHT.
DELIGHTFUL CREATURE...
...YOU AND I ARE TO BECOME...
... THE BEST OF FRIENDS.
...TO DO IT YOURSELF.
ZSSSSS
LORDY, WHAT A WONderful SIGHT!
CLOCK'S RUNNIN', REAVERS.
SO DON'T DAWDLE!
THOM!
NEW TOY, PRETTYBOY?
A RECRUIT, ACTUALLY.
JESSÁN HOAN.
FINANCIAL WIZ, PAR EXCELLENCE.
KLAK
JUST WHAT THE DOC ORDERED.
THOUGH, THE WAY SHE'S STRUGGLIN'...
..."TIGER" MIGHT BE A BETTER NAME.
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA!
SAY "SO LONG" TO YOUR FAMILY, TIGER-GAL!
WE'RE TAKING YOU TO YOUR REWARD...
... I'M SENDING THEM TO THEIRS!

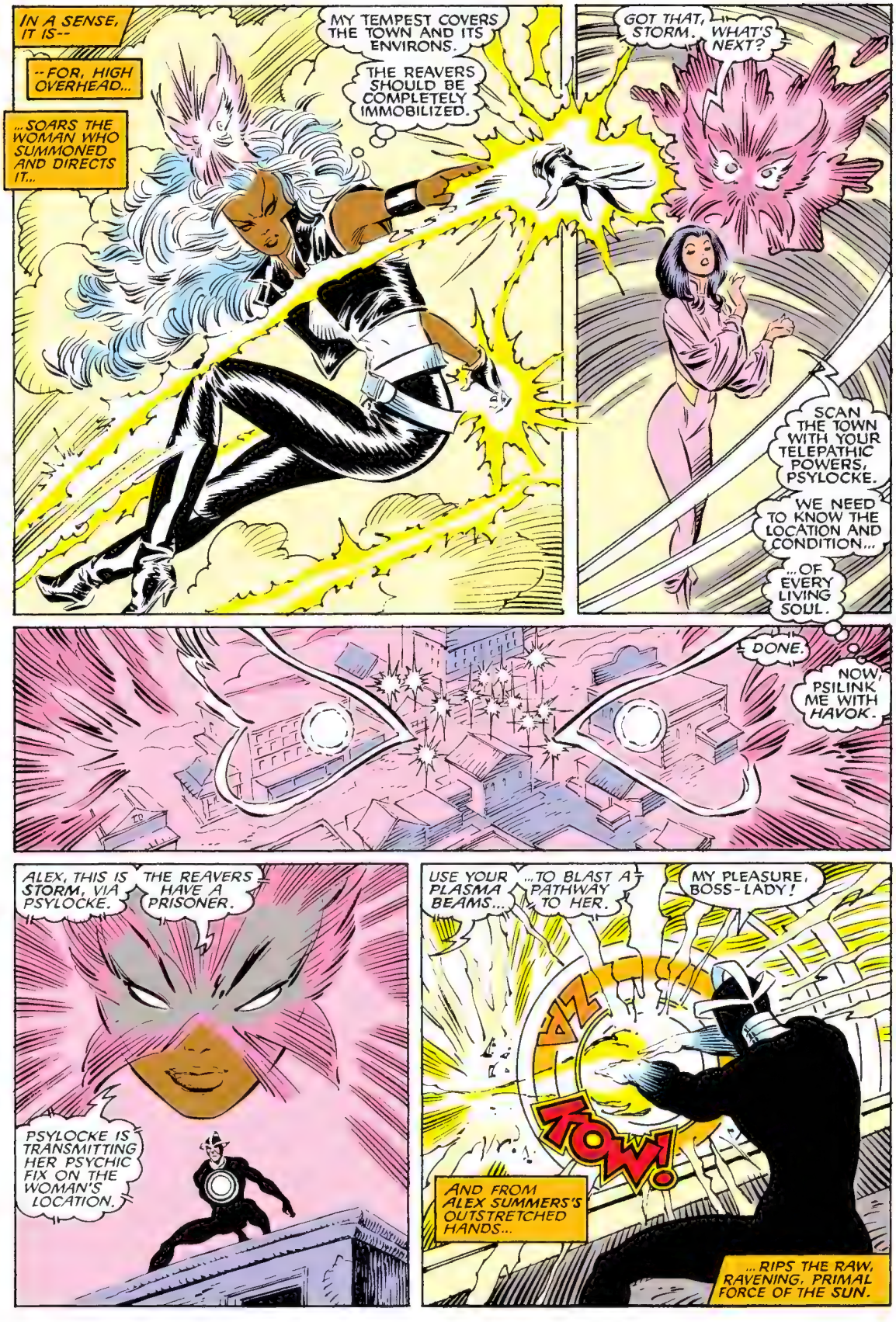

SHE SCREAMS HER THROAT RAW...
...HER CRIES MINGLING WITH THOSE OF HER RELATIVES...
...AS BONEBREAKER CUTS THEM DOWN.
THEN, IN A BLINK OF BLINDING LIGHT, FULL DAY IN SINGAPORE...
...GIVES WAY TO SUNSET...
...ROUGHLY 3500 MILES EASTWARD...
...IN AUSTRALIA.
A WILD, DESOLATE LAND...
...THIS HEART OF THE FIFTH AND MOST REMOTE OF EARTH'S CONTINENTS.
A PLACE THAT IN MANY WAYS...
...APPEARS AS THE WORLD DID, WHEN IT WAS YOUNG, RAW, AND UNTEMPERED BY EITHER ELEMENTS...
...OR MAN.
BARELY TWO CENTURIES HAVE PASSED SINCE THE EUROPEANS CAME, SAW, CONQUERED.
BEFORE, THIS WAS THE PROVINCE OF THE PEOPLE WE CALL ABORIGINES...
...WHO NOT SO MUCH LIVED ON THE LAND...
...BUT ACTUALLY SEEMED ONE WITH IT.
WAY TO GO, GATEWAY!
YOU BROUGHT US HOME, MATE, SAFE AN' SOUND, JUST LIKE ALWAYS!


HE MAKES NO REPLY...
...THIS THIN, WIZENED MAN AS WEATHERED AS THE HILLS...
...AND, SOME JOKE (BUT NEVER IN HIS PRESENCE)...
...PROBABLY AS OLD.
HE MERELY WHIRLS HIS BULL ROARER UNTIL THE LAST OF THE CYBORG RAIDERS HAS EMERGED THROUGH THE PORTAL...
...THEN STOPS.
AND WITH THE SILENCE--
--SUDDEN, EERIE, AS DISQUIETING AS IT IS ALL-ENCOMPASSING--
--HIS BONFIRE FADES TO EMBERS...
...THE "GATEWAY" PORTAL CLOSES.
MAN, I'LL NEVER GET USED TO HOW DARK IT GETS OUT HERE, BONEBREAKER, HOW QUICK.
NO BIG DEAL, SKULL.
I CAN LIGHT THINGS UP, BRIGHT AS DAY...
...WHENEVER I PLEASE.
OL' COOT LOOKS ANGRY, BOSS.
DON'T MIND.
HE CAN LOOK ANY WHICH WAY HE PLEASES...
...SO LONG AS HE DOES WHAT HE'S TOLD.
BUT MARK ME, GATEWAY--
--ANY FUNNY STUFF, AN' THE REAVERS'LL TRASH YOUR HOLY PLACE BEYOND ALL HOPE O' RECONSECRATION--
--AN' THEN, YOUR PEOPLE WILL NEVER KNOW PEACE.
THEY'LL WANDER THE DREAMLANDS, SLAVE TO OUTSIGN SPIRITS, TO THE END OF TIME AN' BEYOND!

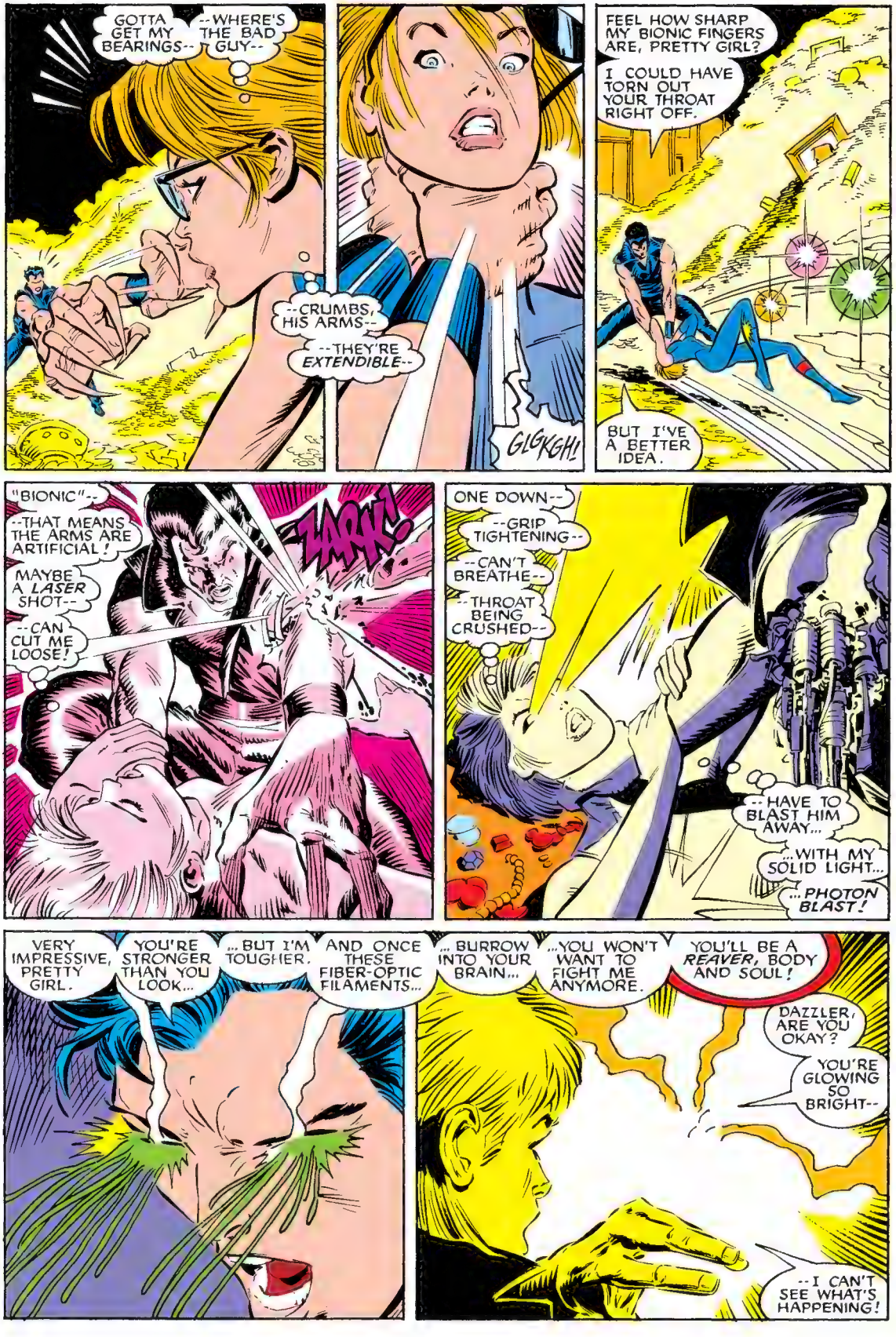
AFTER EVERY CAPER, THERE'S ALWAYS A PARTY.
TONIGHT'S NO DIFFERENT.
WITHIN AN HOUR OF THE REAVERS' RETURN...
HOTEL
...EVERYBODY'S HAPPY.
THEY PLAY AS HARD AS THEY FIGHT...
...WITH NO RULES...
SNAP!
POW POW!
...AND LESS MERCY.
BUT WHILE THESE FESTIVITIES RAGE EVER MORE WILDLY OUT OF CONTROL...
...NOT FAR AWAY, UNDERGROUND...
WHERE AM I?!
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?!!
OUR HIDE-OUT, OF COURSE.
AND SINCE WE LOOTED YOUR TREASURE VAULT, LITTLE TIGER...
...IT SEEMS ONLY POLITE TO SHOW YOU OURS.
Gasp!?!

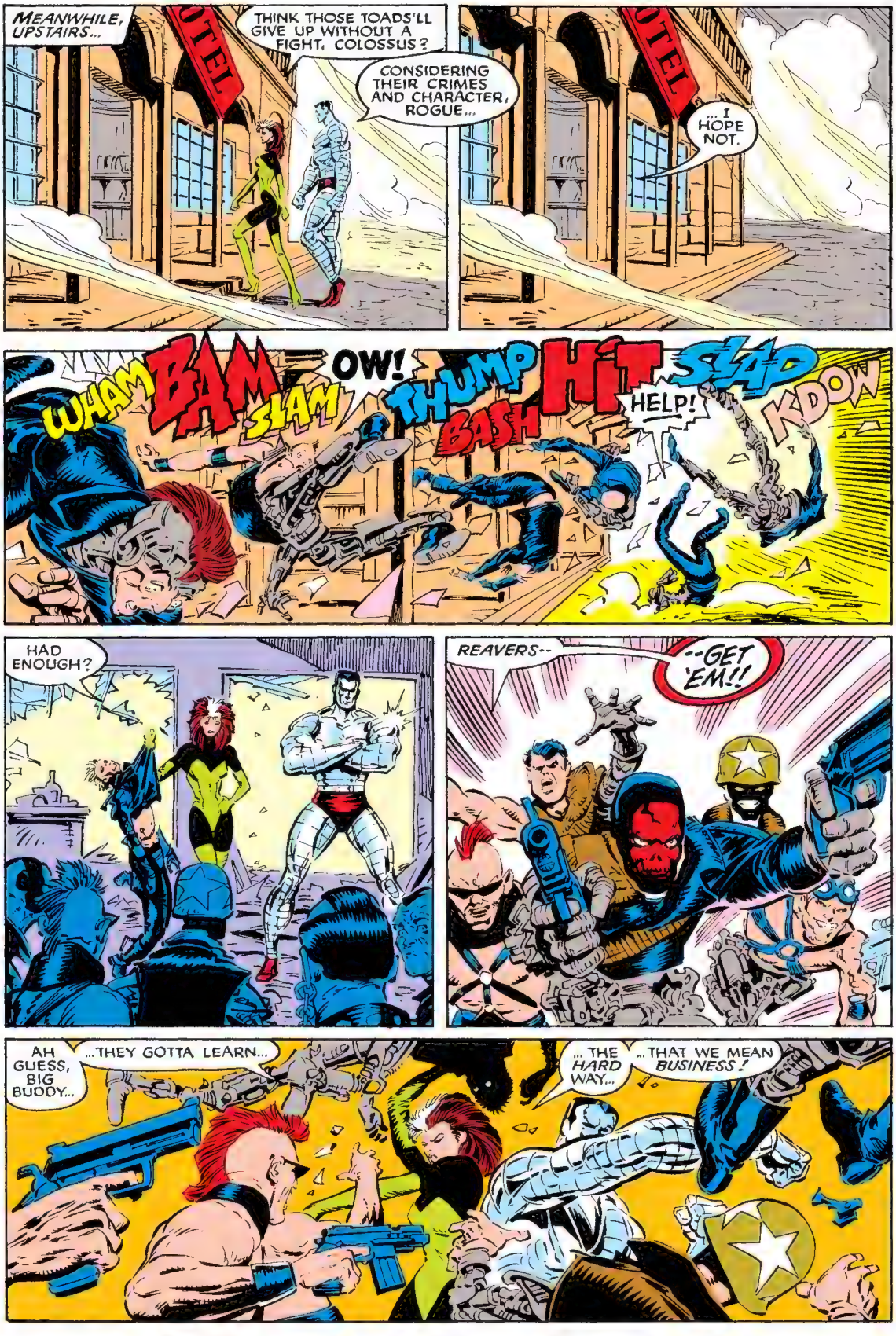

BUT WHY BRING ME HERE?!
WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?!?
WHY-- TO MAKE YOU ONE OF US!
NO!
PROTEST ALL YOU WISH...
... IT WON'T MAKE A WHIT OF DIFFERENCE.
PLEASE DON'T PLEASE NO PLEASE
YOU SEE--WE HAVE ALL THIS BOOTY...
... BUT NOWHERE, NO WAY, TO SPEND IT.
WHAT WE REQUIRE IS A FINANCIAL WIZARD--
--THAT'S YOU--
--TO PUT IT TO GOOD AND PROFITABLE USE.
HOWEVER, WHILE YOUR BANKING SKILLS ARE AN ASSET...
...OTHER ASPECTS OF YOUR CHARACTER...
...ARE DISTINCT LIABILITIES.
INCONVENIENT ELEMENTS SUCH AS A SENSE OF MORALITY, SCRUPLES, DECENCY.
SO, I'M GOING TO ERASE THEM.
REPLACE THEM WITH AN ATTITUDE MORE IN KEEPING WITH YOUR NEW LIFE AS A REAVER.
INSTANT PSYCHIC RE-PROGRAMMING.
LIKE BEING REBORN--
NO MUSS, NO FUSS, PRESTO-CHANGEO--
-- A WHOLE NEW YOU!
ISN'T THAT NICE?


EVENTUALLY, NATURE TAKES ITS TOLL...
...EVEN ON MEN WHO ARE MOSTLY MACHINE--
--BUT AS OBLIVION CLAIMS THE RANK-AND-FILE REAVERS...
...BONEBREAKER IS SUMMONED OUTSIDE.
IMPOSSIBLE!
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT--
--THAT'S WHY I CALLED--
--THE WEATHERSCAN FORECAST A QUIET, CLEAR NIGHT.
DIDN'T SAY NOTHIN'...
...ABOUT NO SAND-STORM!
A BIG ONE, TOO--
--COMIN' OUR WAY, FAST!
ON YOUR FEET, BUCKOS--
--BAD WIND'S RISIN'!
I WANT THIS PLACE CLOSED UP TIGHT!
NOW, "GIRLS"!
?
Uhmmm?
Whazzat??
QUIT BELLERIN', BONE-BREAKER, NOISE HURTS.
YOU DON'T GET YOUR BUTT IN GEAR, CLOWN...
...AN' SECURE THE STORM SHUTTERS...
...YOU'LL BE DEAD!
BUT EVEN AS THE REAVERS BLEARILY GATHER THEIR WITS, AND SOME STUMBLE TO OBEY...
...THE WIND IS ON THEM--
--SAND TEARING AT FLESH AND HARDWARE WITH EQUAL VICIOUSNESS...
...SHORTING ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS...
...FOULING DRIVES AND JOINTS...
...THE STORM INFLICTING SUCH FIENDISH, ALL-AROUND MISERY...
...THAT IT SEEMS ALMOST ALIVE.


IN A SENSE, IT IS--
--FOR, HIGH OVERHEAD...
...SOARS THE WOMAN WHO SUMMONED AND DIRECTS IT...
MY TEMPEST COVERS THE TOWN AND ITS ENVIRONS.
THE REAVERS SHOULD BE COMPLETELY IMMOBILIZED.
GOT THAT, STORM. WHAT'S NEXT?
SCAN THE TOWN WITH YOUR TELEPATHIC POWERS, PSYLOCKE.
WE NEED TO KNOW THE LOCATION AND CONDITION...
...OF EVERY LIVING SOUL.
DONE.
NOW, PSILINK ME WITH HAVOK.
ALEX, THIS IS STORM, VIA PSYLOCKE.
THE REAVERS HAVE A PRISONER.
PSYLOCKE IS TRANSMITTING HER PSYCHIC FIX ON THE WOMAN'S LOCATION.
USE YOUR PLASMA BEAMS...
...TO BLAST A PATHWAY TO HER.
MY PLEASURE, BOSS-LADY!
ZAP
KOW!
AND FROM ALEX SUMMERS'S OUTSTRETCHED HANDS...
...RIPS THE RAW, RAVENING, PRIMAL FORCE OF THE SUN.

AND SO...
?!?
ZAKOW!
VISITORS?
HOW NICE!
BE PATIENT, WE'LL BE THROUGH HERE MOMENTARILY.
DAZZLER--THAT MONSTERMAN IS STEALING HER DAYS!
WHAT?!
REPLACING HER LIFELIGHT WITH HIS OWN!
HE'S SO ANGRY, AS THOUGH THE SAME THING HAD BEEN DONE TO HIYA!
EEP!
LEAVE HER ALONE, MONSTERMAN!
MY EYES!
HE'S GONE AS CRAZY AS WOLVERINE--
--whoops--
--MOUND'S TOO STEEP--
--oh gosh--
--CAN'T GET MY BALANCE--
--oh golly--
--MAINTAIN A HANDHOLD--
--oh HELP!
DON'T BE SCARED, MISS!
YOU'RE SAFE AND RESCUED NOW!
KRAK!
Ow!
Ow!
Ow!
Ow!
Ow!
THIS IS...
...SO EMBARRASSING!

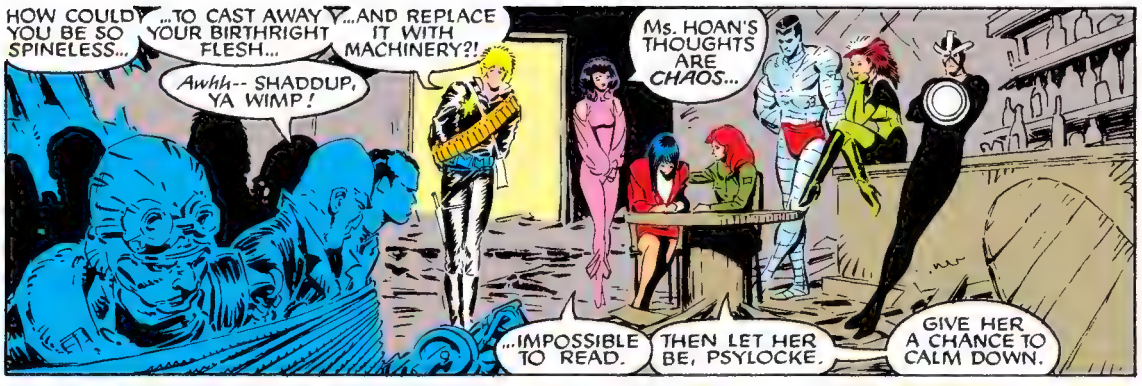

GOTTA GET MY BEARINGS--
--WHERE'S THE BAD GUY--
--CRUMBS, HIS ARMS--
--THEY'RE EXTENDIBLE--
GLGKGH!
FEEL HOW SHARP MY BIONIC FINGERS ARE, PRETTY GIRL?
I COULD HAVE TORN OUT YOUR THROAT RIGHT OFF.
BUT I'VE A BETTER IDEA.
"BIONIC"--
--THAT MEANS THE ARMS ARE ARTIFICIAL!
MAYBE A LASER SHOT--
--CAN CUT ME LOOSE!
ZARK!
ONE DOWN--
--GRIP TIGHTENING--
--CAN'T BREATHE--
--THROAT BEING CRUSHED--
--HAVE TO BLAST HIM AWAY...
...WITH MY SOLID LIGHT...
...PHOTON BLAST!
VERY IMPRESSIVE, PRETTY GIRL.
YOU'RE STRONGER THAN YOU LOOK...
...BUT I'M TOUGHER.
AND ONCE THESE FIBER-OPTIC FILAMENTS...
...BURROW INTO YOUR BRAIN...
...YOU WON'T WANT TO FIGHT ME ANYMORE.
YOU'LL BE A REAVER, BODY AND SOUL!
DAZZLER, ARE YOU OKAY?
YOU'RE GLOWING SO BRIGHT--
--I CAN'T SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING!

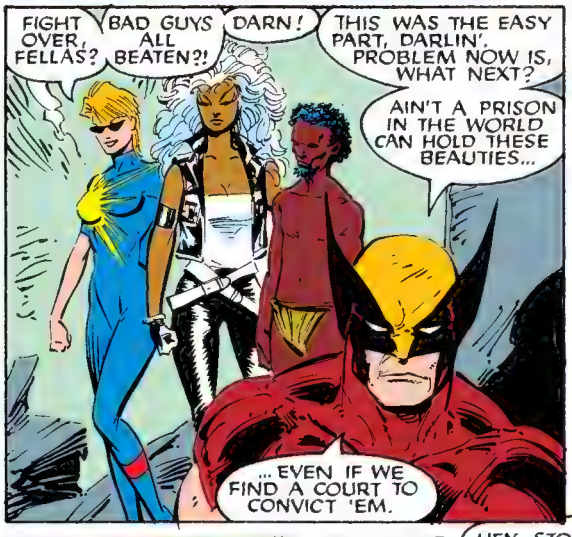

MEANWHILE, UPSTAIRS...
THINK THOSE TOADS'LL GIVE UP WITHOUT A FIGHT, COLOSSUS?
CONSIDERING THEIR CRIMES AND CHARACTER, ROGUE...
...I HOPE NOT.
WHAM
BAM
SLAM
OW!
THUMP
BASH
HIT
HELP!
SLAP
KDOW
HAD ENOUGH?
REAVERS--
--GET 'EM!!
AH GUESS, BIG BUDDY...
...THEY GOTTA LEARN...
... THE HARD WAY...
...THAT WE MEAN BUSINESS!

MY BULLETS--
--BOUNCING OFF!
WHAT D'YOU EXPECT, CHUMP?
HE'S ARMOR...
...AN' AH'M PRETTY NEAR INVULNERABLE!
FACE FACTS, LAMOS, Y'ALL ARE WAY OUTCLASSED!
ROGUE'S STRENGTH ISN'T WHAT MAKES HER A MUTANT.
WE'LL SEE HOW SMART YOU TALK, BIMBO...
...AFTER I TEAR YOU
LORDY-- NO!
IT'S THE POWER TO ABSORB OTHER PEOPLE'S PSYCHE AND ABILITIES. THE MOMENT BONEBREAKER GRABS HER-- HIS HAND ON HER BARE ARM-- SHE'S INSTANTLY FLOODED WITH THE TOTALITY OF HIS BEING.
THE PROCESS KNOCKS HIM OUT.
SHE ISN'T SO LUCKY.
SKULLFACE-- MOVING IN ON ROGUE...
...WHILE SHE'S TOO LOOPED TO CARE!
ZAM!
BACK OFF, BUSTER!
IT'S CLEAR THESE BOZOS ARE MOSTLY ROBOTS...
...BUT IT STILL GIVES ME THE CREEPS WHEN I BLAST 'EM LIKE THAT.
CAN'T HELP WONDERING IF IT HURTS.
HOW YOU DOIN', PARTNER?
THOUGHTS-- MEM'RIES-- FOULEST KIND--
--WHERE IS THAT SCUNGE-BARGE--
--BONE-BREAKER, AH WANT YOUR HEART!
STILL BREATHIN'-- SCAN-STATS MOSTLY GREEN--
KLUDD!
-- GONNA ASSUME YOU'LL RECOVER.
TIME TO SCAMPER, BONE.
WE'RE DONE HERE...
...HAVETA START AGAIN...
...SOMEPLACE ELSE.

ELSEWHERE...
UP ON THE ROOF!
INTRUDER!
BLAST HIM!
THEY DO THEIR BEST.
AGAINST WOLVERINE...
...IT ISN'T ENOUGH.

WHUAHOPPIN'A' ME?!?
SKULL, WHA'-CHUDOIN'-MAN?!!?
THAT GIRL--
--SHE ZAPPED YOU, MAN.
AN' HER BUDDIES'RE NAILIN' THE REAVERS.
WE STAY, WE'LL END UP THE SAME--
--ON THE JUNKYARD!
--OLD MAN--
--GATEWAY--
--PORTAL US AN' ACCOUNTS ARE SQUARED!
"YOU'RE RELEASED FROM ALL DEBTS AN' VOWS!"
MY GRACIOUS, SKULLBUSTER--
--I TRUST YOU'RE NOT PLANNING...
...ON LEAVING WITHOUT ME.
Hawhwr!
THOUGHT YOUR CHARM...
...WAS IRRESISTIBLE.
DID I SAY IT WASN'T?
BLONDIE AND I ARE FAR FROM FINISHED.
GONE.
OLD ABO MUST BE SOME KIND'A TELEPORTER.
NO WAY TO FOLLOW THEIR TRAIL...
... BUT I CAN AT LEAST MAKE SURE...
SNIKT
...THIS "GATE-WAY" DOESN'T OPEN AGAIN.
NO, WOLVERINE!
SHEATHE YOUR CLAWS.
FOR ALL HIS ACTIONS...
...I SENSE THIS MAN IS NO MORE VILLAIN--OR REAVER--
--THAN WE.


HOW COULD YOU BE SO SPINELESS...
...TO CAST AWAY YOUR BIRTHRIGHT FLESH...
...AND REPLACE IT WITH MACHINERY?!
Awhh-- SHADDUP, YA WIMP!
Ms. HOAN'S THOUGHTS ARE CHAOS...
...IMPOSSIBLE TO READ.
THEN LET HER BE, PSYLOCKE.
GIVE HER A CHANCE TO CALM DOWN.


FIGHT OVER, FELLAS?
BAD GUYS ALL BEATEN?!
DARN!
THIS WAS THE EASY PART, DARLIN'. PROBLEM NOW IS, WHAT NEXT?
AIN'T A PRISON IN THE WORLD CAN HOLD THESE BEAUTIES...
...EVEN IF WE FIND A COURT TO CONVICT 'EM.

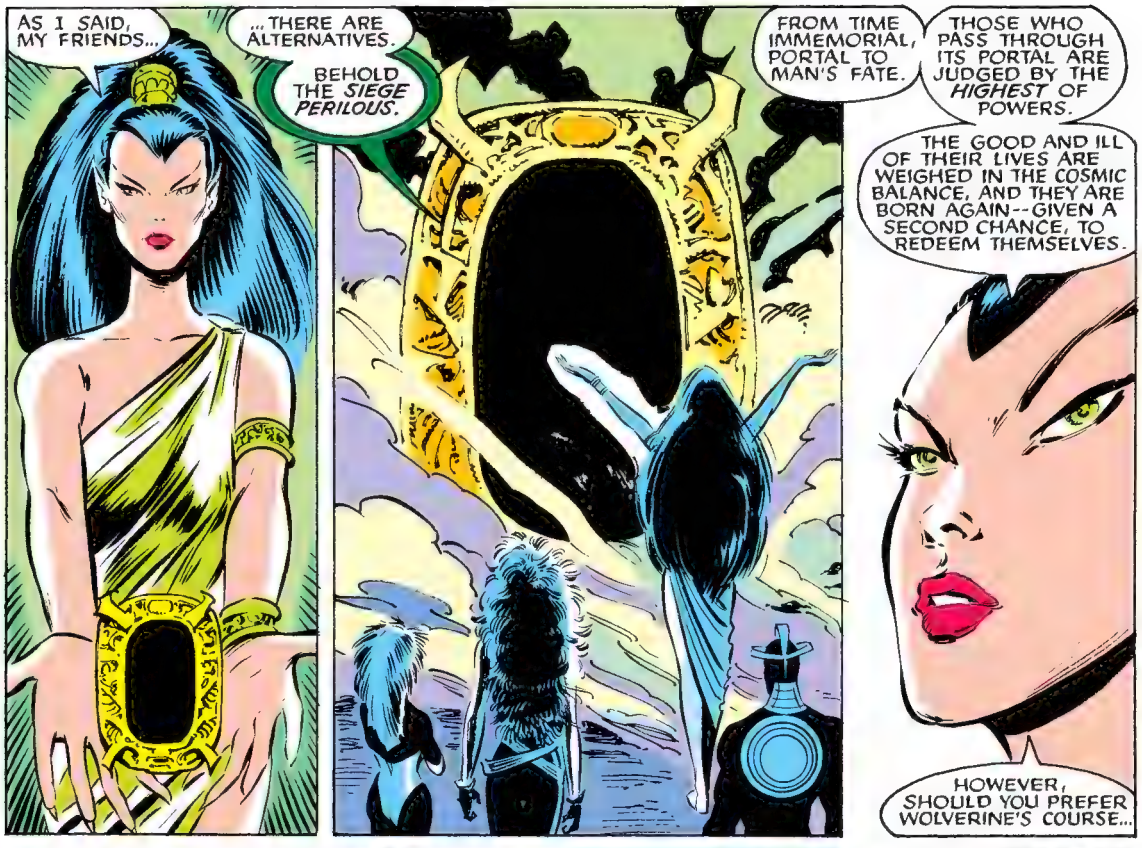
WHOLE WORLD THINKS WE'RE DEAD, REMEMBER?
BAD ENOUGH THREE OF 'EM GOT AWAY.
OUR SECRET'LL REALLY BE BLOWN ONCE THIS CROWD STARTS BLABBIN'.
DEAR WOLVERINE...
...HAVE FAITH--

--THERE ARE ALWAYS ALTERNATIVES.
ROMA!
GREETINGS, STORM. YOU HAVE DONE WELL.
IF EVER A BAND OF VILLAINS NEEDED TO BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE, THIS IS IT.
OUR THANKS, CELESTIAL ONE, FOR SENDING US TO THIS PLACE.

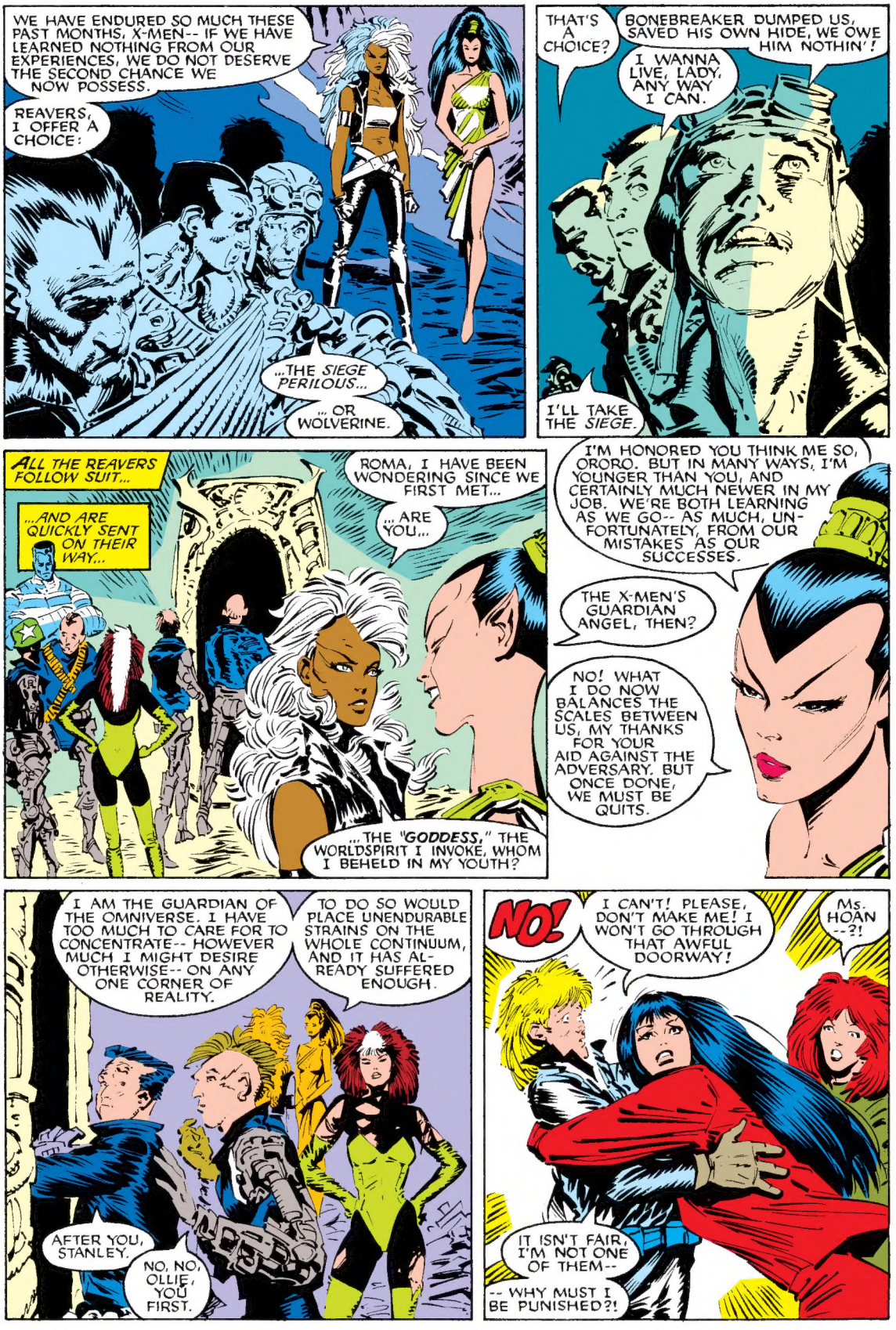
HEY, STORM, I HAVE THE IDEAL SOLUTION--
--THE SAME PSYLOCKE PROPOSED FOR ME...
...WAY BACK WHEN I STUMBLED ON THE TEAM--*
--KILL 'EM!
I GOT NO PROBLEM WITH THAT.
I WAS BEING SARCASTIC, MISTER.
I'M NOT.

*X-MEN #219--Ann.

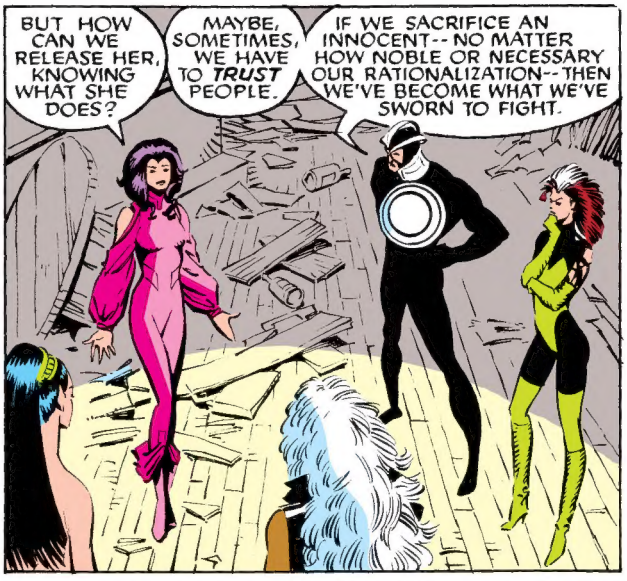
IT'S NO MORE'N THESE CHUMPS DESERVE.
COMRADES, IS THIS WHAT WE FOUGHT--AND SACRIFICED--FOR?!
TO BECOME EXECUTIONERS?!


AS I SAID, MY FRIENDS...
...THERE ARE ALTERNATIVES.
BEHOLD THE *SIEGE PERILOUS*.
FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL, PORTAL TO MAN'S FATE.
THOSE WHO PASS THROUGH ITS PORTAL ARE JUDGED BY THE *HIGHEST* OF POWERS.
THE GOOD AND ILL OF THEIR LIVES ARE WEIGHED IN THE COSMIC BALANCE, AND THEY ARE BORN AGAIN--GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE, TO REDEEM THEMSELVES.
HOWEVER, SHOULD YOU PREFER WOLVERINE'S COURSE...

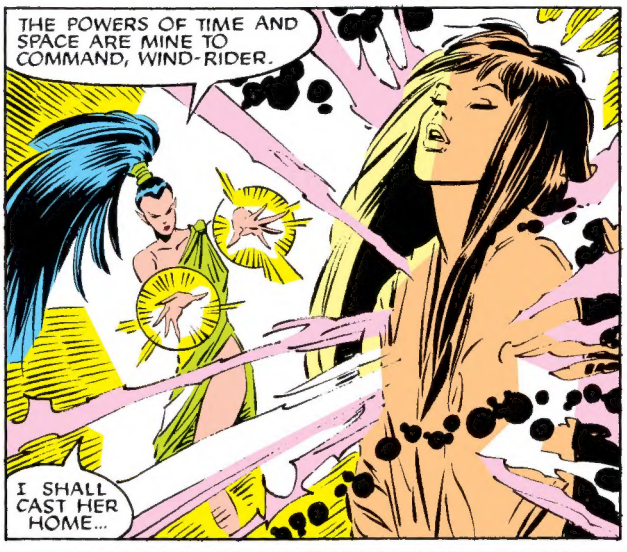
...THEIRS WILL BE THE *TRUE DEATH*, THEIR SPIRITS IRREPARABLY SHATTERED AND CAST INTO THE ULTIMATE VOID.
I CONFESS, ROMA, WHAT YOU'RE SAYING MAKES NO SENSE TO ME...
...BUT WHAT ARE WE AFTER HERE, PEOPLE--WHAT'S OUR TRUE PURPOSE--
--JUSTICE OR VENGEANCE?!
SOMETIMES, BOY, VENGEANCE *IS* JUSTICE.
THE REAVERS SHOWED NO MERCY, WHY SHOULD WE?
BECAUSE, PSYLOCKE, WE ARE NOT THEM.

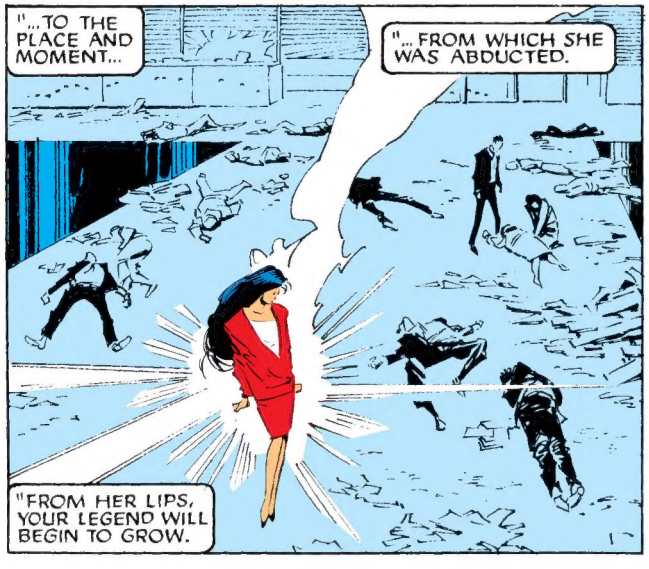

WE HAVE ENDURED SO MUCH THESE PAST MONTHS, X-MEN-- IF WE HAVE LEARNED NOTHING FROM OUR EXPERIENCES, WE DO NOT DESERVE THE SECOND CHANCE WE NOW POSSESS.
REAVERS, I OFFER A CHOICE:
...THE SIEGE PERILOUS...
... OR WOLVERINE.
THAT'S A CHOICE?
BONEBREAKER DUMPED US, SAVED HIS OWN HIDE, WE OWE HIM NOTHIN'!
I WANNA LIVE, LADY, ANY WAY I CAN.
I'LL TAKE THE SIEGE.
ALL THE REAVERS FOLLOW SUIT...
...AND ARE QUICKLY SENT ON THEIR WAY...
ROMA, I HAVE BEEN WONDERING SINCE WE FIRST MET...
... ARE YOU...
... THE "GODDESS," THE WORLDSPIRIT I INVOKE, WHOM I BEHELD IN MY YOUTH?
I'M HONORED YOU THINK ME SO, ORORO. BUT IN MANY WAYS, I'M YOUNGER THAN YOU, AND CERTAINLY MUCH NEWER IN MY JOB. WE'RE BOTH LEARNING AS WE GO-- AS MUCH, UNFORTUNATELY, FROM OUR MISTAKES AS OUR SUCCESSES.
THE X-MEN'S GUARDIAN ANGEL, THEN?
NO! WHAT I DO NOW BALANCES THE SCALES BETWEEN US, MY THANKS FOR YOUR AID AGAINST THE ADVERSARY. BUT ONCE DONE, WE MUST BE QUITS.
I AM THE GUARDIAN OF THE OMNIVERSE. I HAVE TOO MUCH TO CARE FOR TO CONCENTRATE-- HOWEVER MUCH I MIGHT DESIRE OTHERWISE-- ON ANY ONE CORNER OF REALITY.
TO DO SO WOULD PLACE UNENDURABLE STRAINS ON THE WHOLE CONTINUUM, AND IT HAS ALREADY SUFFERED ENOUGH.
AFTER YOU, STANLEY.
NO, NO, OLLIE, YOU FIRST.
NO!
I CAN'T! PLEASE, DON'T MAKE ME! I WON'T GO THROUGH THAT AWFUL DOORWAY!
Ms. HOAN --?!
IT ISN'T FAIR, I'M NOT ONE OF THEM--
-- WHY MUST I BE PUNISHED?!

DON'T CRY, YOU'LL BE FINE, WE'LL KEEP YOU SAFE.
LADY HAS A POINT. SHE'S A VICTIM, SHE DOESN'T DESERVE TO SHARE THE REAVERS' FATE.

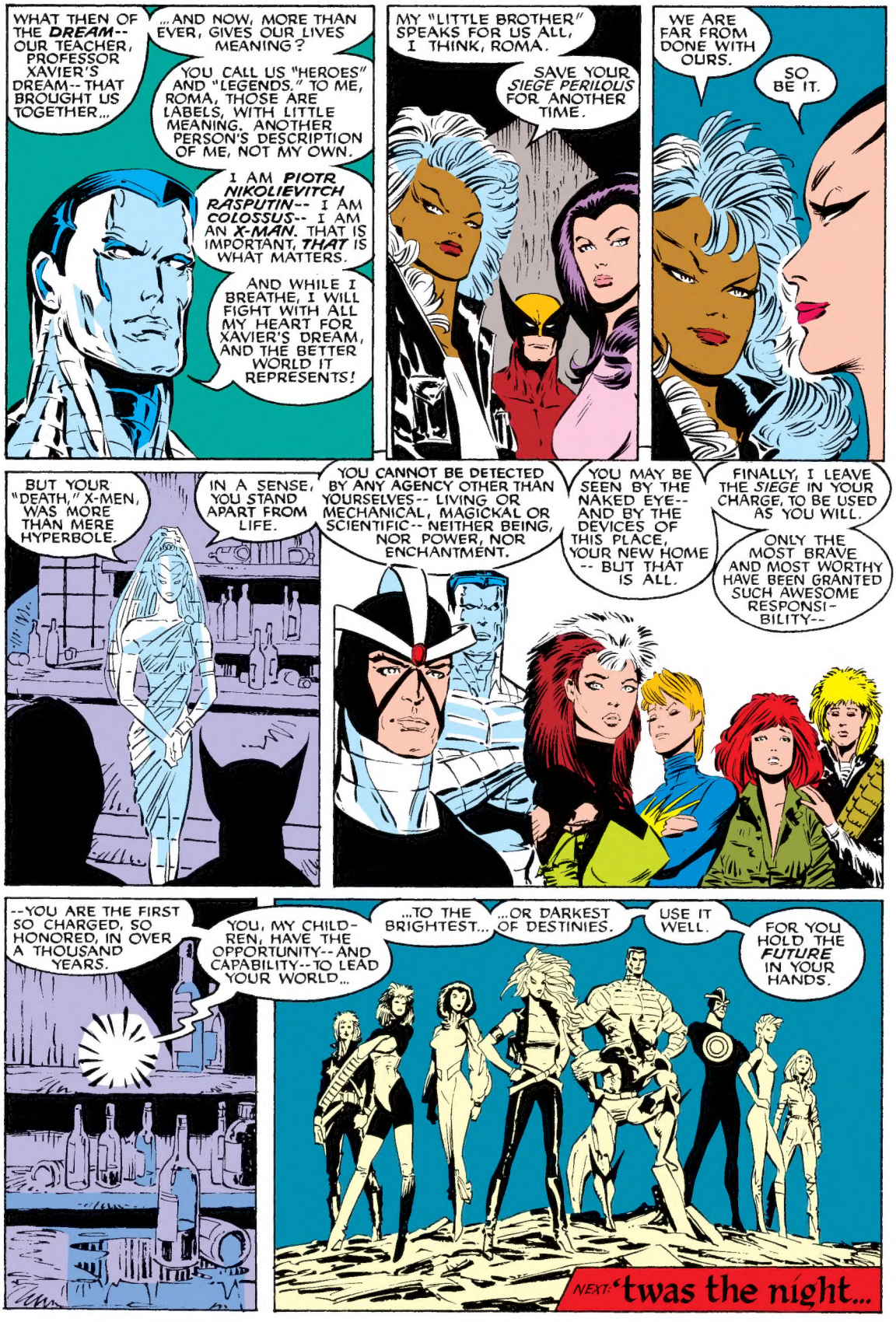

BUT HOW CAN WE RELEASE HER, KNOWING WHAT SHE DOES?
MAYBE, SOMETIMES, WE HAVE TO *TRUST* PEOPLE.
IF WE SACRIFICE AN INNOCENT-- NO MATTER HOW NOBLE OR NECESSARY OUR RATIONALIZATION-- THEN WE'VE BECOME WHAT WE'VE SWORN TO FIGHT.

HAVOK IS RIGHT.
THE RISK MUST BE TAKEN.
ROMA, FORGIVE ME FOR ASKING...
...BUT IS THERE ANY WAY YOU CAN HELP?


THE POWERS OF TIME AND SPACE ARE MINE TO COMMAND, WIND-RIDER.
I SHALL CAST HER HOME...


"...TO THE PLACE AND MOMENT...
"...FROM WHICH SHE WAS ABDUCTED.
"FROM HER LIPS, YOUR LEGEND WILL BEGIN TO GROW.

KNOW, X-MEN, THAT THE *SIEGE PERILOUS* IS FOR YOUR USE AS WELL. AS AVALON WAS FOR KING ARTHUR, SO MAY THE *SIEGE* BE FOR YOU.
A RELEASE FROM THE TRIALS AND TREVAILS OF THIS WORLD...
... GATEWAY TO A PARADISE WELL EARNED...
... IF SUCH IS YOUR DESIRE.


WHAT THEN OF THE DREAM-- OUR TEACHER, PROFESSOR XAVIER'S DREAM-- THAT BROUGHT US TOGETHER...
...AND NOW, MORE THAN EVER, GIVES OUR LIVES MEANING?
YOU CALL US "HEROES" AND "LEGENDS." TO ME, ROMA, THOSE ARE LABELS, WITH LITTLE MEANING. ANOTHER PERSON'S DESCRIPTION OF ME, NOT MY OWN.
I AM PIOTR NIKOLIEVITCH RASPUTIN-- I AM COLOSSUS-- I AM AN X-MAN. THAT IS IMPORTANT, THAT IS WHAT MATTERS.
AND WHILE I BREATHE, I WILL FIGHT WITH ALL MY HEART FOR XAVIER'S DREAM, AND THE BETTER WORLD IT REPRESENTS!
MY "LITTLE BROTHER" SPEAKS FOR US ALL, I THINK, ROMA.
SAVE YOUR SIEGE PERILOUS FOR ANOTHER TIME.
WE ARE FAR FROM DONE WITH OURS.
SO BE IT.
BUT YOUR "DEATH," X-MEN, WAS MORE THAN MERE HYPERBOLE.
IN A SENSE, YOU STAND APART FROM LIFE.
YOU CANNOT BE DETECTED BY ANY AGENCY OTHER THAN YOURSELVES-- LIVING OR MECHANICAL, MAGICKAL OR SCIENTIFIC-- NEITHER BEING, NOR POWER, NOR ENCHANTMENT.
YOU MAY BE SEEN BY THE NAKED EYE-- AND BY THE DEVICES OF THIS PLACE, YOUR NEW HOME -- BUT THAT IS ALL.
FINALLY, I LEAVE THE SIEGE IN YOUR CHARGE, TO BE USED AS YOU WILL.
ONLY THE MOST BRAVE AND MOST WORTHY HAVE BEEN GRANTED SUCH AWESOME RESPONSI-BILITY--
--YOU ARE THE FIRST SO CHARGED, SO HONORED, IN OVER A THOUSAND YEARS.
YOU, MY CHILD-REN, HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY-- AND CAPABILITY-- TO LEAD YOUR WORLD...
...TO THE BRIGHTEST...
...OR DARKEST OF DESTINIES.
USE IT WELL.
FOR YOU HOLD THE FUTURE IN YOUR HANDS.
NEXT: 'twas the night...

MINUTEMEN
Blutman